

## NOTES &amp; NEWS

Two New Supraspecific Taxa  
in the Gastropoda

BY

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TWO NAMES NEEDED in the classification of eastern Pacific gastropods are here published in advance of a revised edition of "Sea Shells of Tropical West America."

## VERMETIDAE

*Tripsycha* KEEN, 1961*Eualetes* KEEN, subgen. nov.

**Type Species:** *Vermetus centiquadrus* VALENCIENNES, 1846

**Diagnosis:** Cream-colored to brown shells of moderate to large size, with whorls cemented to substrate throughout, tending to have regular, tight spirals, the outer edge of each whorl appressed; whorls not forming a hollow cone as in *Tripsycha*, *s. s.*, but coiled more like those of *Petalocochus* (*Macrophragma*), which CARPENTER picturesquely described as being like a *Turritella* squeezed sideways. The contour of the aperture may be affected by the appressing of the outer edge of each turn to the substrate, and it may become semilunar in outline. Nuclear whorls of about two turns, more globose than in *Tripsycha* *s. s.*; operculum as large as aperture, concave, brown, with several volutions, the edge of each one slightly upturned but not forming a spiral lamina such as occurs in *Petalocochus*, the volutions sometimes seeming to be dichotomous because of occasional heavier growth striae.

**Discussion:** The subgeneric name is chosen to implement what was evidently Carpenter's purpose in proposing *Aletes*. His description of this genus in the "Mazatlan Catalogue" (CARPENTER, 1857b) cites the operculum and thus applies to the species here selected as type of *Eualetes*. Unfortunately, Carpenter allocated

a new species that he was describing to this genus, and the paper in which it was named appeared in print a few months in advance of the Catalogue (CARPENTER, 1857a). The latter species, *Aletes squamigerus*, is inoperculate and is, as he later realized, a *Serpulorbis*. The term "eu-aletes" means "the true aletes," αλετες being the Greek word for "wanderer" – an appropriate term for irregularly coiled shells.

The type species, *Tripsycha* (*Eualetes*) *centiquadra*, seems to be characteristic of the northern part of the Panamic province, from the Gulf of California to southern Mexico. A second species in the subgenus has as yet been taken only in the Panama area. This is *T. (E.) tulipa* (CHENU, 1843). The species is not well known, even under its three synonymous names: *Vermetus angulatus*, *V. panamensis*, and *V. effusus* CHENU, 1844. Type specimens of *V. effusus*, from "Amérique" and *V. panamensis*, from Panama, are in the Paris Museum collection. The type specimen for *V. tulipa* is lost. The name, however, has priority, and illustrations of all four forms can readily be matched with material from Panama Bay collected by Eugene Bergeron. This vermetid is evidently not uncommon on islands of Panama Bay, the shells rivalling in size some *Serpulorbis* from other areas.

## MURICIDAE

Aspellinae KEEN, new subfamily

Shells with rather inconspicuous varices, two to six in number, rarely with spines; sculpture generally subdued, the shell surface in many with a thin chalky layer; operculum muricoid, with an apical nucleus; radula with the central tooth having three larger cusps, two smaller cusps between. The narrow anterior canal is short to moderate in length in most species, the aperture smooth to dentate within. Type genus, *Aspella* MÖRCH, 1877.

This subfamily shows some relationship to both the Muricinae and Ocenebrinae, differing in less scaly sculpture and in the frequent occurrence of a superficial chalky layer. Other genera that may be assigned to Aspellinae include *Attiliosa*, *Calotrophon*, *Favartia*, *Eupleura*, and *Phyllocoma*.

## Literature Cited

- CARPENTER, PHILIP PEARSALL  
1857a. Monograph of the shells collected by T. Nuttall Esq. on the Californian coast, in the years 1834-35. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 24 for 1856: 209 - 229 (26 January 1857)  
1857b. Catalogue of the Reigen collection of Mazatlan Mollusca, in the British Museum. pp. i - iv + ix - xvi + 522 London, British Museum (1 August 1857)